

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The bill clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. SMITH. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

#### TIMBER

Mr. SMITH. Mr. President, I intended to speak in reference to an amendment I was to call up for the supplemental, but because we are in morning business I will speak in morning business.

My amendment would be objected to as out of order, as being inconsistent with the supplemental emergency bill. However, I am here to talk about an emergency in rural Oregon in timber-dependent communities.

For 100 years, there has been a relationship between the Federal Government and rural communities that has been absolutely indispensable to our country and to those communities. The deal was this: In those States where the Federal Government owns much of the land—in my State it owns more than half of the State of Oregon—there would be multiple uses of public lands. They would be managed as to their resources consistent with environmental law.

In the case of the State of Oregon, there would be the result of timber products, wood products, to build countless millions of homes. There would be jobs for people and there would be the types of jobs that would create tax revenues that would allow local communities to have services.

In addition to that, there is what are called timber receipts. Local communities would get 25 percent of the timber receipts from the harvest of public timber. This has been absolutely indispensable to the life of these rural communities.

That deal changed in the 1990s. To show you how devastating this change was to my State, we had the listing of the spotted owl. We had the Endangered Species Act go into effect. President Clinton and Vice President Gore pursued a forest policy that took a harvest of roughly 8 billion board feet a year down to less than 1 percent of that in many national forests. As a consequence, by the end of the 1990s, our schools were closing. They operated 4 days a week. Counties had no money because many of them have lost up to 60 percent of their operating budgets.

At the end of the Clinton administration, the Congress, with President Clinton, recognized the damage, the devastation, being done to these communities, so we passed, in 2000, the Secure Rural Schools Act to bridge the gap between what had been, the gridlock that existed, and the hope for a brighter day when there would be a predictable, sustainable level of forestry.

President Bush and the Congress pursued the Healthy Forests Initiative and

this President has fully funded the Northwest Forest Plan that was the product of President Clinton but never delivered on the timber that it promised in the hopes of bridging the gap for these communities.

But still, after all of that effort, 6 years later, we find that only a small percent of what was done 20 years ago is available to these communities in terms of timber harvest. As a consequence, this secure rural schools fund is about to expire.

I suggest this is a very real, present danger, even an emergency, that is appropriate to this supplemental. We ought to include it. These are Federal decisions that have been made. They have been made by an administration in the 1990s. They have been made by Federal law, the law that passed by this Congress. They have been made by courts that have enforced that law and have locked up our forests and now have us in a bind that is truly an emergency.

This is a Federal obligation. I need to use every tool as a Senator that I have available to me to try to remind this Senate, this Congress, of the obligation it has. We cannot abandon these communities. We cannot abandon these people. We have to find a way to continue to get back to a management level that is consistent with environmental law, that allows for multiple uses of the land, the harvest of timber, the employment of our people, the production of wood products, the receipt of timber taxes, so that schools can remain open, streets can remain paved, counties can be safe because they have police protection.

This is not inexpensive. The annual cost of what we did to bridge this gap was \$500 million a year. Oregon is responsible for 20 percent of the merchantable timber in this country. We are not alone in terms of the benefit that came from this secure rural schools fund. California received \$380 million over the last 6 years; Montana, \$63 million; Mississippi received \$38.8 million to keep their rural timber-dependent communities together body and soul.

We cannot walk away from this until we find a day where we can get back to a deal that is sustainable in terms of environmental policy, timber production, and the employment of our people. Heaven knows we need the timber. We are now a net importer of timber in this country. Yet what do we do with our own timber? Our policies are in gridlock and our forests are burning.

Three years ago, there were 500,000 acres burned in southern Oregon, larger than the State, I am told, of Rhode Island. Yet that timber still stands rotting, a moonscape that, frankly, ought to be allowed to at least be salvaged in some degree.

Until we come to a day where we have a policy that we in the Federal Government agree upon, we cannot abandon these rural communities.

I will at the appropriate time propose my amendment and hope it is not ruled out of order.

I yield the floor.

Mr. COCHRAN. Mr. President, I commend the distinguished Senator from Oregon for his comments and his leadership on these issues that are so important to our forestry owners and people throughout the States who depend on incomes from those jobs.

I ask unanimous consent I be permitted to call up amendments at this point.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

#### MAKING EMERGENCY SUPPLEMENTAL APPROPRIATIONS FOR THE FISCAL YEAR ENDING SEPTEMBER 30, 2006—Resumed

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the pending business.

The assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (H.R. 4939) making emergency supplemental appropriations for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2006, and for other purposes.

#### Pending:

McCain/Ensign amendment No. 3616, to strike a provision that provides \$74.5 million to states based on their production of certain types of crops, livestock and or dairy products, which was not included in the Administration's emergency supplemental request.

McCain/Ensign amendment No. 3617, to strike a provision providing \$6 million to sugarcane growers in Hawaii, which was not included in the Administration's emergency supplemental request.

McCain/Ensign amendment No. 3618, to strike \$15 million for a seafood promotion strategy that was not included in the Administration's emergency supplemental request.

McCain/Ensign amendment No. 3619, to strike the limitation on the use of funds for the issuance or implementation of certain rulemaking decisions related to the interpretation of "actual control" of airlines.

Warner amendment No. 3620, to repeal the requirement for 12 operational aircraft carriers within the Navy.

Coburn amendment No. 3641 (Divisions IV through XIX), of a perfecting nature.

Vitter amendment No. 3627, to designate the areas affected by Hurricane Katrina or Hurricane Rita as HUBZones and to waive the Small Business Competitive Demonstration Program Act of 1988 for the areas affected by Hurricane Katrina or Hurricane Rita.

Vitter/Landrieu modified amendment No. 3626, to increase the limits on community disaster loans.

Vitter modified amendment No. 3628, to base the allocation of hurricane disaster relief and recovery funds to States on need and physical damages.

Wyden amendment No. 3665, to prohibit the use of funds to provide royalty relief for the production of oil and natural gas.

Santorum modified amendment No. 3640, to increase by \$12,500,000 the amount appropriated for the Broadcasting Board of Governors, to increase by \$12,500,000 the amount appropriated for the Department of State for the Democracy Fund, to provide that such funds shall be made available for democracy programs and activities in Iran, and to provide an offset.

Salazar/Baucus amendment No. 3645, to provide funding for critical hazardous fuels